Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (currently amended) A method for operating a hearing device in which one of several possible hearing programs can be selected at a given time in order to adjust to a momentary acoustic surround situation, in that parameters of a transfer function provided between a microphone and a hearer can be changed, whereas the parameters to be changed according to the hearing program switching are adjusted from a momentary value to a desired value in a smooth and fixed manner in order to provide a smooth transition [[form]] from one hearing program to another.

2. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value is extended over a given time range.

3. (currently amended) The method according to claim 1, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value[[s]] corresponds to a step response of a low-pass filter.

4. (currently amended) The method according to claim 2, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value[[s]] corresponds to a step response of a low-pass filter.

5. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value is generated using a ramp generator.

6. (original) The method according to claim 2, whereas the smooth transition from a momentary value of a parameter to a desired value is generated using a ramp generator.

7. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

8. (original) The method according to claim 2, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

9. (original) The method according to claim 3, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

10. (original) The method according to claim 4, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected

according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

11. (original) The method according to claim 5, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

12. (original) The method according to claim 6, whereas the momentary acoustic surround situation is recognized automatically and that a hearing program is selected according to the recognized momentary acoustic surround situation.

13. (original) The method according to claim 1, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

14. (original) The method according to claim 2, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

15. (original) The method according to claim 3, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote

control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

16. (original) The method according to claim 4, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

17. (original) The method according to claim 5, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

18. (original) The method according to claim 6, whereas a hearing program is selected by a manual intervention over an oversteer unit at the hearing device, or by a remote control having effect on the hearing device, whereby the selected hearing program is taking effect immediately after selection.

19. (original) The method according to one of the claims 1 to 18, whereas one or several of the following parameters are used:

- maximum attenuation;
- width of registration;

- amplification;

- compression;

- scaling;

- operating point of a noise suppression unit;

- time constant of the compression;

- compression knee point;

- limiter;

- operating point of the suppression unit for the signal feedback;

- operating point of a recognition unit of the acoustic surrounding.

20. (currently amended) A hearing device, whereas at least one filter unit is provided which filter unit[[s]] generates smooth transitions of parameters which are affected by ~~the~~ hearing program switching, in that values of the parameters to be changed by a hearing program switching are passed through the filter unit[[s]] in order to obtain a smooth transition from a momentary to a desired parameter value.

21. (currently amended) The hearing device according to claim 20, whereas the ~~means to form a smooth transition feature~~ filter unit features low-pass characteristics.

22. (currently amended) The hearing device according to claim 20, whereas the ~~means to form a smooth transition comprise~~ filter unit comprises a ramp generator.

23. (currently amended) The hearing device according to one of the claims 20 to 22, whereas an oversteer unit is provided which is operationally connected to the output signal of ~~the~~ means to form a smooth transition.

24. (new) A method for operating a hearing device in which one of several possible hearing programs can be selected at a given time to adjust to a momentary acoustic surround situation comprising the steps of:

providing a microphone;

providing transfer functions between the microphone and a hearer, the transfer functions having parameters and corresponding with the programs;

initiating a change in at least one of the parameters from a momentary value to a desired value in a smooth manner in order to provide a smooth transition from one hearing program to another.